



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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August 4, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan, Council remain cautionary of monsoon season, thankful for much needed rain

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Office of the Speaker and 21st Navajo Nation Council are thankful for the much needed moisture the Navajo Nation is receiving, but remain cautionary as seasonal monsoon rain has caused flooding, muddy conditions and power outages in communities across the Navajo Nation. On Aug. 4, the Commission of Emergency Management declared a “State of Emergency” on the Navajo Nation.

The Speaker and Council are closely monitoring the situation and will ensure all existing resources are exhausted, even assistance from the states and counties, before any possible legislative action and explore possible funding sources to assist with the rainy conditions. Currently, the Navajo Nation is operating under a budget deficit of negative \$24 million.

Mark Grant, controller of the Navajo Nation, said a funding source had not been identified for the Council to assist in the operation – “Operation Downpour.”

“The funding would have to be identified,” he said, adding that money would have to be reallocated if a funding source was identified. “There is no funding sitting there waiting for allocation. There is an emergency account, I am pretty sure there is money in there but how much I do not know at this time.”

The Council had passed various pieces of supplemental appropriations that would have benefited Navajo communities during this monsoon season but those legislations were either vetoed or lined out by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.

On June 24, the president had lined out riders attached to Resolution CJN-25-10, which would have provided \$3 million in public employment program funding and \$2 million in housing discretionary funds to Navajo Nation chapters.

Honorable Young Jeff (Mariano Lake/Smith Lake) sponsored the resolution in an effort to provide money to Navajo chapters to stimulate their local economies, and if necessary, use those monies to assist in emergency situations. Through resolution approved by Navajo constituents, Navajo Nation chapters could have possibly funneled some of those contingency funds for disaster relief such as in “Operation Downpour.”

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